

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a soluble polyfunctional vinylaromatic copolymer improved in heat resistance, resistance to thermal decomposition, solvent solubility, and processability. The soluble polyfunctional vinylaromatic polymer is obtained by cationically polymerizing, at a temperature of 20 to 120°C, one or more monomer ingredients including 20 to 100 mol% divinylaromatic compound (a) in the presence of a donor ingredient, e.g., a quaternary ammonium salt, with the aid of a Lewis acid catalyst and an initiator represented by the following general formula (1)



wherein R¹ represents hydrogen or a monovalent C₁₋₆ hydrocarbon group; R² represents an aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbon group having a valence of p; Z represents halogen or C₁₋₆ alkoxy or acyloxy; and p is an integer of 1 to 6; provided that when two or more R¹'s and Z's are present per molecule, they may be identical to different from each other.